REGISTER OF CLASSIFICATION DECISIONS

Date of entry in Register:	21 October 1998
Name of applicant/court:	Secretary for Internal Affairs
Applicant to the Labelling Body:	Not Applicable
Title of Publication:	Bloodhound Gang One Fierce Beer Coaster
Other Known Titles:	One Fierce Beer Coaster The Bloodhound Gang
Director:	Not Applicable
Producer:	Not Applicable
Publisher:	Universal Music Limited
Author:	Not Applicable
Format:	Compact Disc Sound Recording Slick
Country of Origin:	USA
Language:	English

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Components of film originally examined:

Feature:	Not Applicable	Running time:
Trailers:		Running time:
		Total Running time:

Excision/Alteration: Not Applicable.

Reason(s) for Excision: Not Applicable.

Classification Decision:

Objectionable except if the availability of the publication is restricted to persons who have attained the age of 18 years.

Display Conditions:

That when the publication is on public display, the classification given to the publication must be shown on the publication; or any package in which the publication is kept.

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Descriptive Note:

Not Applicable.

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Direction to issue a label has been given on: Not Applicable

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SUMMARY OF THE REASONS FOR DECISION:

The CD slick *The Bloodhound Gang One Fierce Beer Coaster* is classified as: Objectionable except if the availability of the publication is restricted to persons who have attained the age of 18 years.

The slick is a well produced collection of lyrics, information and images designed to inform and entertain the reader about The Bloodhound Gang and their CD *One Fierce Beer Coaster*.

Concern arises from the way in which the slick deals with sex and suicide. The slick also contains some offensive language. On face value, the lyrics (printed on the inside of the slick) for the song *Lift Your Head Up High (And Blow Your Brains Out)* encourage the listener to commit suicide. The concern derives from these lyrics being available to an audience who may be particularly vulnerable to the song's blatant message, or do not possess the necessary cognisance to fully comprehend the lyrics' ironic and satirical context.

Other lyrics deal with a sex act in a particularly strong and unsubtle way. Sexual references are also found in other songs, but are not so prominent. In addition to this a cartoon illustration also depicts a grinning creature grabbing its penis. The sexual references are, however, mostly presented in a juvenile and humorous manner, lessening the overall impact.

The Classification Office sought the opinion of the Mental Health Services for the Department of Health, and the Office of the Commissioner for Children, both authorities concerned with the welfare of young persons and the issue of youth suicide in New Zealand. The Classification Office is subsequently of the view that the availability of the slick to a younger audience is likely to be injurious to the public good. Accordingly, the availability of the slick is restricted to persons who have attained the age of 18 years.

The New Zealand Bill of Rights Act 1990 (NZBR Act) has been balanced against the criteria of the Films, Videos, and Publications Classification Act 1993. The classification given to the CD slick is a restriction on the right to freedom of expression as guaranteed in the NZBR Act. Any restriction in this instance is a significant limitation on the rights of teenagers to access music material of their choice, and the Classification Office recognises this. However, in giving weight to the matters discussed above, such a restriction is both reasonable and justified as outlined in s5 of the NZBR Act.

OFLC Ref: 9800170